

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR EAIR NATO

SUBJ: CONVERSION OF BAY OF BISCAY LORAN-A CHAIN

REFS: A. STATE 016976

B. STATE 003223

C. AC/4-DS/950, ITEM V

SUMMARY. INTERNATIONAL STAFF ADVISED INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE THAT FRENCH PLAN TO DEACTIVATE POSPODER (SITE 28) ON 19 JUNE 75. REQUEST: A) U.S. USER APPROVAL OF DEACTIVATION; B) US CONFIRMATION THAT DEACTIVATION WILL NOT AFFECT PRESENT LORAN O&M AGREEMENT AND C) US RESPONSE TO PARA 8 OF REF C. AS MATTER OF SPECIAL URGENCY NEED US CONFIRMATION THAT EL FERROL WILL REMAIN ACTIVE UNTIL DEC 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. BY NOTE OF 30 APRIL 75, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF ADVISED THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE THAT THE EXPERIMENT WITH THE LORAN A PAIR EAST BLOCKHOUSE - EL FERROL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THE FRENCH WILL DEACTIVATE POSPODER (SITE 28) ON 19 JUNE 75. IN MEETING 6
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MAY 75 THE COMMITTEE INVITED CHAIRMAN SMITH TO SEND A NOTE TO THE FRENCH NATO DELEGATION ASKING FOR OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE DEACTIVATION PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMITTEE AGREEMENT ON MILITARY USE OF THE SITES (REF C) WHICH NOTED QUOTE THAT PROPOSALS

TO DEACTIVATE CERTAIN SITES WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED BY ALL USER NATIONS CONCERNED... END QUOTE.

2. MISSION ASSUMES ON BASIS REFS A AND B THAT US CAN FORMALLY AGREE TO POSPODER ADEACTIVATION AND CAN ACCEPT RESULTING CONSTRAINTS WICH WOULD AFFECT CHAIN QUOTE CHARLIE UNQUOTE I.E. THAT ONLY QUOTE POSITION LINE UNQUOTE CAN BE DETERMINED AND NOT A QUOTE FIX UNQUOTE. REQUEST WASHINGTON ALSO CONFIRM THAT THE DEACTIVATION WOULD NOT ENTAIL ANY MODIFICATION TO THE EXISTING AGREEMENT ON THE COST-SHARING OF LORAN O&M EXPENDITURES. AS A MATTER OF SPECIAL URGENCY THE COMMITTEE ALSO REQUESTED US CONFIRMATION THAT EL FERROL WILL REMAIN ACTIVE AT LEAST UNTIL DEC 77.

3. REF C PARA 8 ALSO INVITED HOST AND USER NATIONS OF LORAN TO: QUOTE. (A) REVIEW THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE STATIONS LISTED IN PARA II, APPENDIX 3 TO AC/4-D/2293; (B) CONSIDER THE DEACTIVATION OF ALL OR INDIVIDUAL SITES; (C) CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSTRINTS TO THE SYSTEM, SHOULD IT PROVE POSSIBLE TO DEACTIVATE INDIVIDUAL STATIONS; (D) REPORT THEIR CONCLUSIONS ON THE ABOVE QUESTION S TO THE INT'L STAFF. UNTQUOTE. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON ABOVE POINTS.

4. CURRENT COMMITTEE DISCUSSION SEEMS TO REVEAL AN APPARENT LACK OF EFFECTIVE COORDAINATION BETWEEN HOSTS AND USERS. WHEN ALL RESPONSES TO REF C PARA 8 ARE IN, THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE FUTURE NAVAIS INFRASTRUC-TURE REQUIREMENTS. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE AT THIS POINT, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF OMEGA AND THE INT'L STAFF VIEW (REF C PARA 4) THAT QUOTE IT WAS LIKELY THAT A MORE ACCURATE SYSTEM WOULD BE DEVELOPED BEFORE OMEGA WAS DECLARED FULLY OPERATIONAL. UNQUOTE.STREATOR

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